### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA NORTHERN DIVISION

SUSAN S. DEPAOLA, CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE FOR THE **BANKRUPTCY ESTATE OF** PHILIP L. GOODWYN AND SIMPLE PLEASURES, INC.,

CASE NO.: 2:06-CV-00893-WKW

PLAINTIFFS,

(BANKRUPTCY CASE NO. 05-**32325-CHAPTER 7)** 

V

V. RESTAURANTS, INC., AND VINCE SAELE,

(BANKRUPTCY ADV. PRO. NO. 05-03062-WRS)

**DEFENDANTS.** 

### **DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS** - FRAUD COUNT

**COMES NOW** the defendants, V. Restaurants, Inc., and Vince Saele and pursuant to Rule 12, Ala.R.Civ.Proc. and Rule 12, Fed.R.Civ.Proc move this Honorable Court to dismiss the Plaintiffs' fraud count by stating the following:

- 1. On or about January 28, 2005, the Plaintiffs filed the instant action in the Montgomery County Circuit Court. This action alleges various claims against the Defendants. This action, subsequent to State Court filing, was removed to the United States Bankruptcy for the Middle District of Alabama. The subject action has now been transferred to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.
- 2. One of the counts in the original complaint alleges fraud on the part of the Defendants. Defendants allege that the averment in the complaint is not sufficient to satisfy pleading requirement of Rule 9, Ala.R.Civ.Proc. or Rule 9, Fed.R.Civ.Proc. in that the averment fails to possess particularity necessary for a fraud count. The complaint fails to state the time,

place and the contents or substance of any false representations as required by the rules of pleadings.

- 3. Pursuant to Rule 9(b) Ala.R.Civ.Proc. allegations of fraud "shall be stated with particularity." The committee comments to the rule explain that "[t]he pleading must show time, place and the contents or substance of the false representations."
- 4. The Defendants have, on two previous summary judgment motions by the Defendants, raised the failure of the Plaintiffs to plead the particularity of the fraud count as required by the rules of pleading. The failure to raise sufficient facts to support a fraud count was also addressed in the Defendant's brief filed in this action when the action was before the Montgomery County Circuit Court. A co-defendant, who was previously dismissed from this action, also raised the shortcoming of the complaint in its *Motion to Dismiss/Motion for a More Definite Statement/Answer*.
- 5. The failure of the Plaintiffs to plead such is understandable because of the testimony of Plaintiff, Mr. Phillip Goodwyn, and sole shareholder of Simple Pleasures, Inc. During Mr. Goodwyn's deposition testimony he stated that since the Defendants did not "go through" with the contract he feels he was defrauded. He goes on to say that he had no information that the Defendants intended not to go through with the sale on the day they entered the contract.
- 6. The Defendant includes the complaint (Exhibit A) filed by the Plaintiff along with excerpts from the Plaintiff's deposition. (Exhibit B)

WHEREFORE, THE PREMISES CONSIDERED, Counsel for the Defendants pray that this Honorable Court will issue an order dismissing the fraud count of the Plaintiff's complaint or in the alternative issue a judgment on the pleading in the Defendant's behalf as to the fraud count.

FAX

### **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED** this the 12th day of March, 2007.

### /s/ Daniel G. Hamm

DANIEL G. HAMM (HAM043) ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANTS, V RESTAURANTS, INC AND VINCE SAELE

560 S. McDonough St., Ste. A MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104 TELEPHONE 334-269-0269

334-323-5666

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that I have this day served a copy of this Defendant's Motion to Dismiss – Fraud Count by electronic transmission or by placing a copy in the United States Mail with sufficient postage for first class delivery to the attorneys named below.

**DONE** this the 12th day of March, 2007.

#### /s/ Daniel G. Hamm

DANIEL G. HAMM (HAM043) ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANTS, V RESTAURANTS, INC AND VINCE SAELE 560 S. McDonough St., Ste. A MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104 TELEPHONE 334-269-0269 FAX 334-323-5666

Von Memory James Day 469 S. McDonough Street Montgomery, Alabama 36104

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ALABAMA

SIMPLE PLEASURES, INC., an Alabama corporation, and PHILLIP GOODWYN, individually,

Plaintiffs,

V.

V RESTAURANTS, INC., an Alabama corporation, SPECTRUM/VAUGHN PLAZA L.L.C., an Alabama limited liability company, and VINCE SAELE, an individual, and fictitious Defendants, A, B, C, D, and E being those persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, or other entities that aided, assisted or joined with the Defendants, incident to the actions described herein. Plaintiff avers that the identities of the fictitious parties are otherwise unknown to Plaintiff at this time, or if their names are known to Plaintiff at this time, their identities as proper parties are not known to Plaintiff at this time, but their true names will be substituted by amendment when ascertained,

CASE No. CV 2005 - 306

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TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED

Defendants.

#### **COMPLAINT**

### **PARTIES**

- 1. Plaintiff, SIMPLE PLEASURES, INC. ("Simple Pleasures") is an Alabama corporation with its principal place of business in Montgomery County, Alabama.
- 2. Plaintiff, PHILLIP GOODWYN ("Goodwyn"), is over the age of 19 years, is a resident of Montgomery County, Alabama. Mr. Goodwyn's address is 1533 Gilmer Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104.

Filed 03/12/2007

- 3. Defendant, V RESTAURANTS, INC. ("V Restaurants"), is an Alabama corporation with its principal place of business in Montgomery County, Alabama. The registered agent for service of process for V Restaurants, Inc., is Vince Saele. Mr. Saele may be served at 5040 Vaughn Rd., Montgomery, AL 36116.
- 4. Defendant, SPECTRUM/VAUGHN PLAZA L.L.C. ("Spectrum"), is an Alabama limited liability company, with its principal place of business in Montgomery County, Alabama. The registered agent for service of process for Spectrum is Edgar H. Fatzinger, III. Mr. Fatzinger may be served at 2870 Zelda Road, Montgomery, AL 36106.
- 5. It is believed that the Defendant, VINCE SAELE ("Saele"), who is over the age of 19 years, is a resident of Montgomery County, Alabama. Mr. Saele may be served at 5040 Vaughn Rd., Montgomery, AL, 36116.
- 6. FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS A, B, C, D, and E, are currently unknown, however, these Defendants joined, assisted, aided, and abetted in wrongfully withholding, depriving, and converting assets and other business opportunities.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. The Plaintiffs allege that the Defendants owe Plaintiffs money based on a breach of a restaurant purchase agreement and other legal theories. Accordingly, Plaintiffs are proceeding against the Defendants under a theory of breach of contract, conversion, unjust enrichment, damages for use, fraud, wantonness/willfulness, and civil conspiracy. This court has statutory and historical jurisdiction over these claims. All of the parties either reside in or have corporate presence in Montgomery County, Alabama and all of the events and incidents that occurred in relation to the matters between the parties occurred in Montgomery County, Alabama. Hence,

venue is proper in this county. The amount in controversy exceeds \$10,000.00 so this case is properly before the Montgomery County Circuit Court.

#### FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

- 8. Simple Pleasures was a restaurant and food service corporation in Montgomery, Alabama. Goodwyn is the president of Simple Pleasures.
- 9. Simple Pleasures owns and previously operated a popular and well-known restaurant on the east side of Montgomery, Alabama commonly known as "Gators". Gators is located at 5040 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL, 36116-1149. Gators has been previously known as Gators Plaza Café, however, recently it was renamed Gators Fish House.
- 10. Gators maintained a broad customer base, goodwill, and a reputation for quality food and service in Montgomery County, Alabama.
- 11. In the past two years, Goodwyn and Simple Pleasures have actively pursued and investigated several offers to sell the assets, goodwill, and customer base of Gators.
- 12. In or about July 2004, Goodwyn received an offer from V Restaurants and Saele to purchase Gators, and ultimately the parties agreed to a \$90,000.00 purchase price.
- 13. For the purchase price, V Restaurants and Saele agreed to purchase Gators, as a going concern, to include all equipment, inventory and supplies, furniture, fixtures, and amenities. In addition, V Restaurants and Saele, *inter alia*, agreed to assume responsibility for the existing lease with Spectrum.
- 14. The purchase price also included intangibles such as a large customer base, good will, over 15 years of perfected and renowned recipes, and direct assistance with the transition of all existing employees to the new owners.

Filed 03/12/2007

- 15. The above-referenced terms and conditions were integrated into a contract for sale, prepared by the Saele Defendants, and signed by the parties, September 24, 2004.
- 16. Incident to the negotiations on the contract for sale, V Restaurants and Saele negotiated a \$30,000.00 payoff of the \$104,253.57 lease arrearage with Spectrum, a \$30,000.00 payoff of the \$80,000.00 debt to Regions Bank, and an anticipated \$30,000.00 settlement of the \$106,425.71 debt to the Internal Revenue Service.
- 17. In further consideration, Spectrum, inter alia, agreed to release Goodwyn and Simple Pleasures from their lease obligations. Regions Bank agreed to release its liens, pursuant to the promissory note and security agreement, on the assets of Gators. The Internal Revenue Service also agreed to a release of the federal tax lien.
- 18. Incident to the contract for purchase of Gators, Goodwyn verbally agreed to allow V Restaurants and Saele to take possession of the restaurant, pending approval of the application to the Internal Revenue Service. Moreover, in a show of good faith, Goodwyn did not pursue or solicit other buyers of Gators.
- 19. V Restaurants and Saele had sole and complete possession of the assets and operation of Gators from September 24, 2004, through the current date. In addition, V Restaurants and Saele had access to the Gators staff and personal property associated with the restaurant.
- 20. In an effort to firm up a closing date, the undersigned called counsel for the V Restaurants and Saele and requested a closing, however, the undersigned was informed by counsel that V Restaurants and Saele were "no longer interested in the terms of the contract" and withdrew the offer to purchase Gators. Nevertheless, V Restaurants and Saele have remained in sole possession.

- 21. V Restaurants and Saele have allowed the Gators business to run down to the point that it may be impossible to salvage the business.
- 22. Spectrum has advertised the leasehold property for public sale in the Montgomery Advertiser, January 13, 20, and 27, 2005. Spectrum has alleged the abandonment of the leased premises and has noticed the sale of the fixtures, equipment, and other personal property belonging to Simple Pleasures, Friday, February 4, 2005.

# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (BREACH OF CONTRACT)

- 23. The Plaintiffs move to incorporate by reference the averments contained in paragraphs 1 through 22.
- 24. V Restaurants and Saele signed a contract for sale, September 24, 2004. Incident to the instant contract, V Restaurants and Saele agreed, among other things, to purchase the going concern of Gators for \$90,000.00.
- 25. Relying on the representations of V Restaurants and Saele, Goodwyn, and as valuable consideration for the contract for sale, agreed to allow Defendants to assume possession before the sale was closed.
- 26. Without cause, V Restaurants and Saele have failed or refused to honor their contract for sale, however, V Restaurants and Saele have remained in possession and continue to use the restaurant and the amenities associated therewith.

WHEREFORE, the Goodwyn and Simple Pleasures demand a judgment against V
Restaurants and Saele in the amount of \$90,000.00, together with interest, costs, attorney fees,
and for such other and further relief as this court deems just and appropriate.

## SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (CONVERSION)

- 27. The Plaintiffs move to incorporate by reference the averments contained in paragraphs 1 through 22.
- 28. V Restaurants and Saele signed a document entitled contract for sale, September 24, 2004. Incident to the instant contract V Restaurants and Saele agreed to purchase the going concern of Gators for \$90,000.00.
- 29. Relying on the representations of Saele, Goodwyn, as valuable consideration for the contract for sale, agreed to allow V Restaurants and Saele to assume possession before the sale was closed.
- 30. Without cause, V Restaurants and Saele have failed or refused to honor their contract for sale.
- 31. V Restaurants and Saele has had sole and exclusive possession of the assets and operation of Gators from September 24, 2004, through the current date.

WHEREFORE, Goodwyn and Simple Pleasures demand a judgment, for compensatory and punitive damages, against V Restaurants and Saele in an amount to be determined, together with interest, costs, attorney fees, and for such other and further relief as this court deems just and appropriate.

# THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION (UNJUST ENRICHMENT)

- 32. The Plaintiffs move to incorporate by reference the averments contained in paragraphs 1 through 22.
- 33. V Restaurants and Saele signed a document entitled contract for sale, September 24, 2004. Regarding the instant contract the V Restaurants and Saele, among other things, agreed to purchase the assets associated with or concerning Gators for \$90,000.00.

- 34. Relying on the representations of Saele, Goodwyn, as valuable consideration for the contract for sale, agreed to allow V Restaurants and Saele to take possession before the sale was closed.
- 35. Without cause, the V Restaurants and Saele have failed or refused to honor their contract for sale.
- 36. V Restaurants and Saele had sole possession of the assets and operation of Gators from September 24, 2004, through December 31, 2004. During the same period in both 2001 and 2002, Gators earned in excess of \$450,000.00 in sales revenue.

WHEREFORE, the Goodwyn and Simple Pleasures demand a judgment against V
Restaurants and Saele in an amount to be determined, together with interest, costs, attorney fees, and for such other and further relief as this court deems just and appropriate.

# FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION (DAMAGES FOR USE)

- 37. The Plaintiffs move to incorporate by reference the averments contained in paragraphs 1 through 22.
- 38. V Restaurants and Saele signed a document entitled contract for sale, September 24, 2004. Incident to the instant contract the V Restaurants and Saele agreed to purchase the going concern of Gators for \$90,000.00.
- 39. Relying on the representations of Saele, Goodwyn, as valuable consideration for the contract for sale, agreed to allow V Restaurants and Saele to assume possession before the sale was closed.
- 40. Without cause, V Restaurants and Saele have failed or refused to honor their contract for sale.

41. V Restaurants and Saele had sole possession of the assets and operation of Gators from September 24, 2004, through December 31, 2004. During the same period in both 2001 and 2002, Gators earned in excess of \$450,000.00 in sales revenue.

WHEREFORE, the Goodwyn and Simple Pleasures demand a judgment against V
Restaurants and Saele in an amount to be determined, together with interest, costs, attorney fees, and for such other and further relief as this court deems just and appropriate.

### FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION (FRAUD)

42. The Plaintiffs move to incorporate by reference the averments contained in paragraphs 1 through 22.

WHEREFORE, Goodwyn and Simple Pleasures demand a judgment, for compensatory and punitive damages, against V Restaurants and Saele for FRAUD in an amount to be determined, together with interest, costs, attorney fees, and for such other and further relief as this court deems just and appropriate.

# SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (NEGLIGENCE)

43. The Plaintiffs move to incorporate by reference the averments contained in paragraphs 1 through 22.

WHEREFORE, Goodwyn and Simple Pleasures demand a judgment against V
Restaurants and Saele for NEGLIGENCE in an amount to be determined, together with interest, costs, attorney fees, and for such other and further relief as this court deems just and appropriate.

#### SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (WANTONNESS)

44. The Plaintiffs move to incorporate by reference the averments contained in paragraphs 1 through 22.

WHEREFORE, Goodwyn and Simple Pleasures demand a judgment, for compensatory and punitive damages, against V Restaurants and Saele for WANTONNESS in an amount to be determined, together with interest, costs, attorney fees, and for such other and further relief as this court deems just and appropriate.

### SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION (WILLFULNESS)

45. The Plaintiffs move to incorporate by reference the averments contained in paragraphs 1 through 22.

WHEREFORE, Goodwyn and Simple Pleasures demand a judgment, for compensatory and punitive damages, against V Restaurants and Saele for WILLFULNESS in an amount to be determined, together with interest, costs, attorney fees, and for such other and further relief as this court deems just and appropriate.

### SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION (CONSPIRACY)

46. The Plaintiffs move to incorporate by reference the averments contained in paragraphs 1 through 22.

WHEREFORE, Goodwyn and Simple Pleasures demand a judgment against V
Restaurants, Spectrum, and Saele for CONSPIRACY in an amount to be determined, together with interest, costs, attorney fees, and for such other and further relief as this court deems just and appropriate.

#### JURY DEMAND

The Plaintiffs demand a trial by struck jury on all matters contained herein.

Respectfully submitted January 28, 2005.

Memory & Day

By:

Von G. Memory ASB-8137-071V

James L. Day ASB-1256-A55J

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

### OF COUNSEL:

Memory & Day Post Office Box 4054 Montgomery, AL 36103-4054 Tel (334) 834-8000 Fax (334) 834-8001

### SIMPLE PLEASURES, INC.

V.

V RESTAURANTS, INC., et al.

### PHILLIP GOODWYN

February 17, 2006

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PHILLIP GOODWYN - 2/17/2006

Page 1

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

NORTHERN DIVISION

IN RE:

PHILLIP GOODWYN, CASE NO.

Debtor. 05-32325-WRS

SIMPLE PLEASURES, CHAPTER 7

INC.,

Plaintiff,

vs. ADVERSARY

V RESTAURANTS, INC., PROCEEDING NO.

ET AL, 05-03062

Defendants.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

DEPOSITION OF PHILLIP GOODWYN,

VOLUME I, taken pursuant to notice and stipulation on behalf of the

Defendant, in the Law Office of Von G.

Memory, P.A., 469 South McDonough

Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104,

before Aimee French, Court Reporter

and Notary Public in and for the State

### PHILLIP GOODWYN - 2/17/2006

		Page 78				Page	80
1		noticing procedures, or the legal	1		not going to do it and says we're not		
2		process was wrong?	2		going to execute. I'm not going to		
3	A.	You know, I don't think I don't	3		pay you for this.		
4		know. I don't know.	4	Q.	Is it fair to say that the facts are		
5	Q.		5		his failure to go through with this		
6		that might give you reason to	6		contract of September the 24th, 2004,		
7		challenge that?	7		that's what those are the facts		
8	A.	***	8		that support your fraud claim?		
9	Q.	Other than you not liking the outcome?	9		Is his failure to execute this deal.		
10		MR. MEMORY: I object to the	10	Q.	, , ,		
11		form.	11		misleading? Can you tell me any		
12	A.	There was no effort to really make an	12		anything he told you about the		
13		active true sale I mean, no real	13		September 24, 2004 contract that was		
14		postings, no real I mean, if you	14		untrue, that you know today to be		
15 16		want to sell something to get a real	15 16	A	untrue?		
17		profit for it, you know, get as much money as you could, I don't think that	17	Α.	I don't think I mean, do I know any facts? Would you restate that		
18		was actively done, no.	18		question? Do I know of any facts that		
19	$\cap$	(BY MR. HAMM) Okay. Other than the	19		he said that were untrue?		
20	Q.	failure to solicit all offers or	20	Q.			
21		whatever	21	∢.	representations he made to you about		
22	A.	Right.	22		this September 24 contract to get you		
23	Q.	to properly advertise	23		to sign or that you know today to be		
		Page 79				Page	81
1	A.	Where it was quietly coming to the	1		untrue, to get you to sign this		
2		conclusion that we're trying to do	2		document?		
3		this amount of money, yes, that's	3	A.	Well, I know today that he then chose	;	
4		probably what was happening at that	4		not to fulfill the contract, even		
5		particular time because it was	5		though there was no that time was		
6		operating and Spectrum had wanted	6		not the issue. He had full access.		
7		Vince to continue, or V Restaurants,	7		That was not an issue, and that was,		
8		to continue operating, wanted an	8		you know so there was no reason for		
9 10		operating entity, not someone to come	9		him to withdraw the contract. The		
11	Q.	pull the equipment out. What facts do you know today to	11		contract was still in place as far as or an agreement between the two of		
12	Ų.	support your claim that V Restaurants,	12		us was still in full agreement,		
13		or Mr. Saele, defrauded you in some	13		enforcement.		
14		manner?	14	Q.	Let me ask you this way: Other than		
15	A.	The facts are is that I delivered	15	∢.	Mr. Saele and V Restaurants' failure		
16		the full intentions of what I was	16		to follow through with the contract of		
17		delivering, what was being requested.	17		September the 24th, are there any		
18		I gave him full access, gave him keys,	18		other facts that support your fraud		
19		gave him everything. He had no	19		claim?		
20		hindrances to owning and operating	20	A.	Did he try to then buy the equipment		
21	_	that business.	21		at the low price to get it in and to		
22	Q.	Okay.	22		do it in a subversive manner? Yes, I		
23	Α.	And he submits a letter and says I'm	23		think that is exactly what he was		

21 (Pages 78 to 81)

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### PHILLIP GOODWYN - 2/17/2006

		Page 82			Page 84
1		trying to do.	1		MR. MEMORY: What time is it?
2	0	Okay. You think on September the	2		MR. HAMM: 11:15 by my watch,
3	∢.	24th, 2004 he was attempting to do	3		but it's unreliable.
4		that?	4		MR. MEMORY: What time have
5	A.		5		you got, Coleman?
6	Q.		6		MR. YARBROUGH: I have 11:15.
7	ζ.		7		MR. MEMORY: I've got 30
8	A.	I don't know.	8		minutes to get to Tuskeegee for a
9	Q.		9		twelve noon meeting.
10	_	I should say I don't know that that	10	O.	(BY MR. HAMM) With respect to the
11		wasn't his mindset, attempting	11		conspiracy count, do you understand
12	O.	Okay.	12		generally what conspiracy is?
13		I did not think it was or I wouldn't	13	A.	Um-hmm, yes.
14		have signed it.	14	Q.	· ·
15	O.	You're sitting here today telling us	15		conspiracy to be.
16		that Mr. Saele bought this restaurant	16	A.	± 7
17		equipment at a below-market price; is	17	Q.	
18		that correct?	18	À.	-
19	A.	Correct.	19	Q.	between people to do something
20	Q.	And that fact supports your contention	20		wrong?
21		that you were defrauded in some manner	21	A.	ě
22		or helps aid in supporting your	22		another party.
23		contention you were defrauded in some	23	Q.	Okay. Between who in your case?
		Page 83			Page 85
1		manner; is that correct?	1	A.	In my case it would have been between
2	A.	Correct.	2		Spectrum Development and
3	Q.	Okay. But other than that fact, is	3		MR. HAMM: I'm going to stand
4		there anything that you know other	4		up for a second.
5		than the fact that Mr. Saele purchased	5	A.	and Vince Saele or Ed Fatzinger and
6		this restaurant at, you say, a	6		Vince Saele.
7		below-market price, there's no other	7	Q.	` ' '
8		facts that you know that support the	8		and
9		fact support the notion that you	9	A.	Č
10		were defrauded in some manner?	10	Q.	The four parties to this litigation:
11	A.	3 1 6 6	11		Fatzinger well, he's not a party to
12		he withdrew the contract that was	12		this litigation. Spectrum
13		going to be paid	13		Development, Vince Saele, and V
14		Right.	14		Restaurants?
15	A.	and then everything would have been	15	A.	Correct.
16	_	fine.	16	Q.	They got together in some manner to do
17	Q.	Withdrew the contract and purchased it	17		you some harm?
18		below market, correct?	18	A.	1
19	A.	Right. Because I had no use for it at	19	Q.	
20	0	that point.	20		or agreed in some manner to do you
21	Q.	Okay. You've also alleged that	21	٨	some harm?
22 23		MR. HAMM: Mr. Memory, I know	22 23	A.	-
23		you've got to get out of here.	<u> </u>		agreement on how to execute and how to

22 (Pages 82 to 85)

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